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COCOM Doc. 2869.91

S. List Policy,  
General

Date: April 27, 1959

UNITED STATES MEMORANDUMConcerningExceptions Procedures - Items Which Should Be Excluded  
From the \$150 Cut-Off List

Ref: COCOM Document 2869.89

On April 23 the United States delegation proposed that the value cut-off provision in sub-paragraph 13(a) of Secretariat Paper 104 should not apply to certain items on List I. There follow the reasons why the United States believes these items should not be shipped in quantities up to \$150 without prior consultation in the Committee.

✓ ITEM 1544 - CRYSTAL DIODES: Crystal diodes cost from about \$1.00 to \$35.00 or more, depending on their characteristics. Small quantities of these diodes are strategically important since a single diode is enough for a microwave detector in a probe for a test instrument, a parametric amplifier requires only one diode, a radar set requires only one or two crystal diodes, and certain guided missiles utilize a small number of crystal diodes.

✓ ITEM 1545 - TRANSISTORS: Transistors sell for a wide variety of prices but some of very high quality can be bought for less than \$150. For this item the United States is particularly concerned over the possible supply of valuable prototype information. There is important technology in certain transistors selling for less than \$150 that should not be made available to the bloc.

✓ ITEM 1548 - PHOTOCELLS: Certain photocells are classified in the United States and cost in the neighborhood of \$500; however, types with peak sensitivity beyond 12,000 angstroms have been developed to the point where they can be bought for only \$20 to \$50. There is practically no civilian use for photocells whose sensitivity goes above 12,000 angstroms and the United States is convinced that the \$150 cut-off should not be applied to this item. It might be added that a single photocell could be used as a detector in the homing apparatus of a missile.

✓ ITEM 1555 - IMAGE CONVERTERS AND STORAGE TUBES: List I image converters can be purchased for less than \$50 and one converter can equip a snooper-scope, sniperscope or metascope. (A metascope is a device used to detect enemy use of infrared.) There is little if any civilian use for this item.

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ITEM 1558 - ELECTRON TUBES, n.e.s.: Many of the tubes covered by this item sell for less than \$150 and, among other things, a radar set could be equipped with a "de minimis" shipment. The United States is concerned over possible Bloc acquisition of valuable technology with respect to this type of tubes.

ITEM 1559 - THYRATRON TUBES: Hydrogen thyratrons can be purchased for about \$.45 and only one or two are necessary to supply pulses in a radar set. Thyatron tubes are used primarily for military purposes and were developed for military rather than for civilian radar.

ITEM 1702 - SYNTHETIC HYDRAULIC FLUIDS: These hydraulic fluids which sell from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per pound are used in turbo-prop and turbo-jet planes and for these uses only very small quantities are required. The present definition is much more restrictive than that which was in force before the 1958 list review and the hydraulic fluids covered now are principally for direct military use in the most advanced supersonic turbine engined aircraft. It might be added that these hydraulic fluids are identical in basic composition to the lubricants in Item 1755 which have never been on the \$100 cut-off list.

ITEM 1755 - SILICONE FLUIDS AND GREASES: These fluids, which are particularly useful at high temperatures, have unique applications in supersonic aircraft and missiles. Only small quantities would be utilized for planes or missiles and less than \$150 worth would supply sufficient lubricant for one sputnik or for more than one missile.

ITEM 1781 - SYNTHETIC LUBE OILS AND GREASES: These synthetic lubricants were developed for and in the U.S. are used almost entirely in military jet aircraft and they were included in List I because of their almost exclusive military use. Quantities valued at \$150 would be sufficient to service two aircraft for an extended period since a jet engine does not consume as much oil as reciprocating engines. Twenty-five or thirty gallons of this material, which would represent in value approximately \$150, would be a quantity sufficient to allow the extraction of technical information which could lead to the production of a strategic military aircraft lubricating oil by the Bloc. There have been efforts on the part of the Bloc countries to secure synthetic lubricants and the United States is particularly concerned about the possible extraction of technology by the Bloc.

ITEM 1793 - PETROLEUM BASED HYDRAULIC FLUIDS: These hydraulic fluids are special types used by the United States military in the hydraulic mechanisms of military aircraft. They sell for about \$1.00 per gallon and 150 gallons is a quantity sufficient for two or three aircraft. The United States is the prime producer of these fluids and also of the lube oils and greases covered by Item 1781 and any shipments to the Bloc would, in all likelihood, be transshipments of U.S. origin material.

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ITEM 1801 - SYNTHETIC RUBBER: The alkyl polysulphide liquid polymers ("Thiokol LP") sell commercially for \$0.87 to \$1.10, and \$150 worth of "Thiokol LP" would be a large enough quantity to be important in missile research. The fluorinated synthetic rubbers have a selling price ranging from \$15.00 to \$30.00 and most commercial exports of these rubbers are valued under \$150. These rubbers have wide uses in the military aircraft field for various rubber parts and components. There is no known commercial production of the rubbers covered by Item 1801 outside of the United States.

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